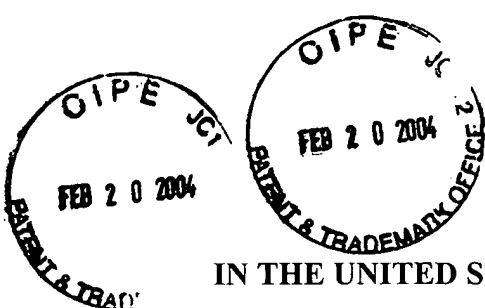


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: BARANOVA ET AL.)
SERIAL NO.: 09/076,956) ART UNIT: 1623
FILED: MAY 13, 1998) EXAMINER: CRANE, L.E.
FOR: PROCESS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF) CONF. NO.: 5479
NUCLEIC ACIDS ON A SOLID)
SUPPORT AND COMPOUNDS WHICH)
ARE USEFUL IN PARTICULAR AS)
SOLID SUPPORTS IN SAID PROCESS)
(AS AMENDED))

MAR 01 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In regard to the referenced application and the Office Action of December 2, 2003, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this submission.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this submission.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this submission.